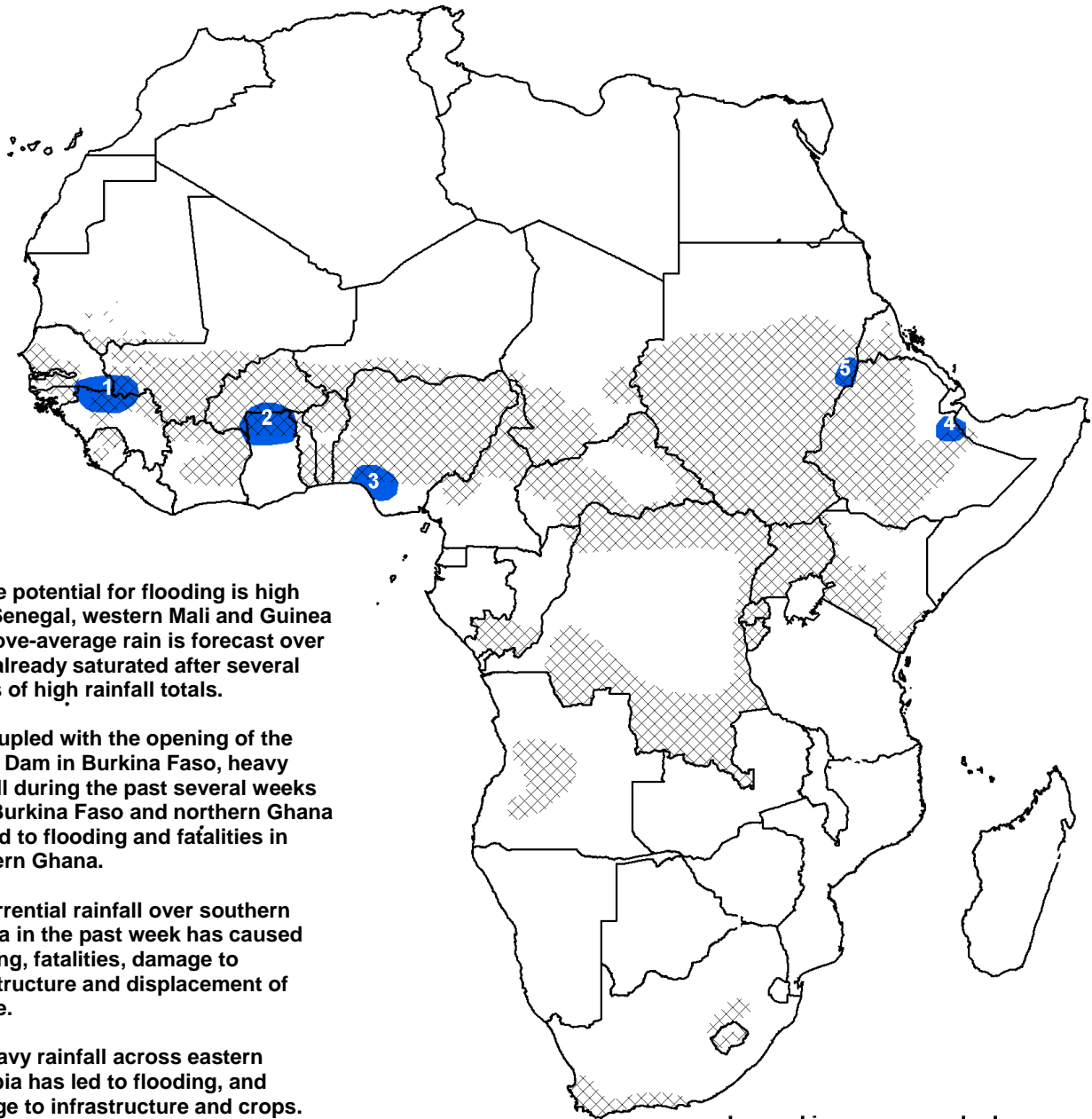


- Torrential rainfall across southern Nigeria has led to flooding and damages to infrastructure.
- Localized heavy rainfall in eastern Ethiopia and the Gedaref region of Sudan has caused flooding.



1). The potential for flooding is high over Senegal, western Mali and Guinea as above-average rain is forecast over soils already saturated after several weeks of high rainfall totals.

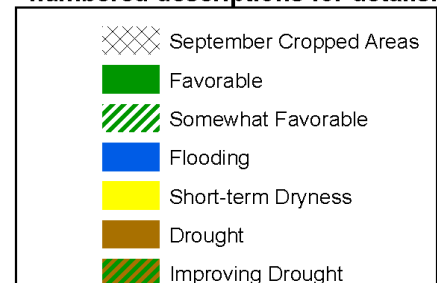
2). Coupled with the opening of the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso, heavy rainfall during the past several weeks over Burkina Faso and northern Ghana has led to flooding and fatalities in northern Ghana.

3). Torrential rainfall over southern Nigeria in the past week has caused flooding, fatalities, damage to infrastructure and displacement of people.

4). Heavy rainfall across eastern Ethiopia has led to flooding, and damage to infrastructure and crops.

5). Abundant rainfall across the Gedaref state of Sudan has caused flash flooding damaging infrastructure.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Torrential rain over southern Nigeria led to flooding and the displacement of people while heavy rains continued over Mali and Guinea.

During the last seven days, widespread above-average rain (> 50 mm) was observed over a large area of West Africa. The highest rainfall totals (> 200 mm) were observed across southern Nigeria which led to flooding, fatalities and the displacement of people. Abundant rain (> 75 mm) also was observed over northern Guinea and western Mali where soil has already been saturated due to several weeks of above-average precipitation. Isolated ample rainfall (> 75 mm) was also observed across western Burkina Faso, eastern Niger, and northern Ghana, Togo and Benin during the past week. The rains across Burkina Faso and northern Ghana have fallen over areas already impacted by flooding in the past couple of weeks. In contrast, southern Mauritania received less than 30 mm of rain (Figure 1) which was a relief from several weeks of above-average totals. Northern and central Nigeria saw below-average rains strengthening monthly rainfall deficits in the region. Field reports, however, have indicated normal crop conditions.

The copious amounts of rain over West Africa in the past week have helped to saturate soils, especially over Guinea and southern Nigeria as seen in an analysis of moisture surplus (Figure 2). Rain that falls on already saturated soils could lead to flooding.

The spatial extent of above-average rains is expected to decrease during the next week with the heaviest rain (> 50 mm) located over Guinea, southern Mali, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire. Additional rainfall in Guinea, western Mali, and Senegal could lead to flooding.

Rainfall was isolated and heavy over portions of eastern Ethiopia and Sudan.

Above-average rainfall across east Africa during the past week was isolated. The most abundant rainfall (> 100 mm) which caused flooding and damage to infrastructure and crops was located over the eastern Oromiya region of Ethiopia. High rainfall totals (> 75 mm) were also located over localized areas across western Tigray, Amhara and western Oromiya regions of Ethiopia. In Sudan, heavy rainfall (> 50 mm) was observed over the Nile, Gedaref and southern Darfur and Kordofan regions. The ample rains led to flash flooding and damage to infrastructure in the Gedaref region. Since the rainfall has not been as widespread as previous weeks, water levels along the Blue, White and main Nile River as well as the Atbara and Gash Rivers have continued to recede. Further south, ample rains (> 50 mm) were observed over southwestern Kenya where flooding has occurred in past weeks. Meanwhile, rainfall across central Sudan and the Afar region of Ethiopia was light (< 30 mm) for the second consecutive week. Across the Northern Darfur and Kordofan regions of Sudan, rainfall was suppressed (< 15 mm) for a third consecutive week (Figure 3).

Ground conditions continue to be moist over the Nile region of Sudan and the Gambela and western Oromiya regions of Ethiopia according to a daily analysis of moisture surplus. Ample rainfall could exacerbate flooding conditions in these areas (Figure 2).

The highest rainfall totals (> 75 mm) during the next week are forecast across western Ethiopia and southern Sudan with isolated above-average rains expected across western Sudan and southern Kenya. These rains could cause localized flooding in Sudan and Kenya during the next seven days. Climate forecasts and the current La Nina phenomenon also indicate the possibility of an extended rainy season into October across the Greater Horn of Africa.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm) Valid: September 14 – September 20, 2010

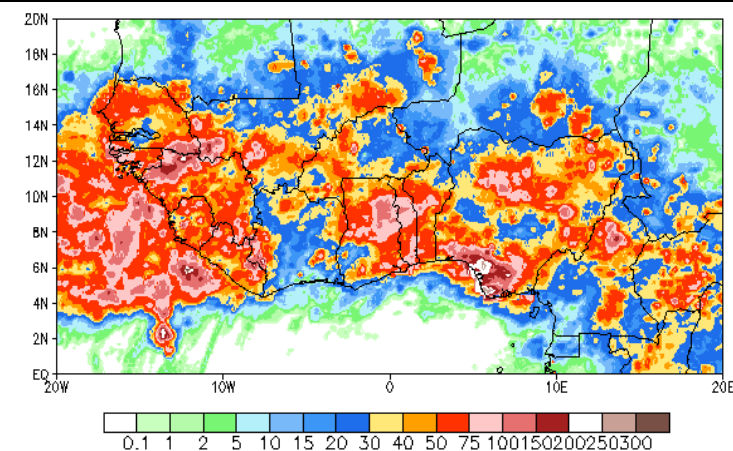


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Daily 10-day Moisture Index Valid: September 20, 2010

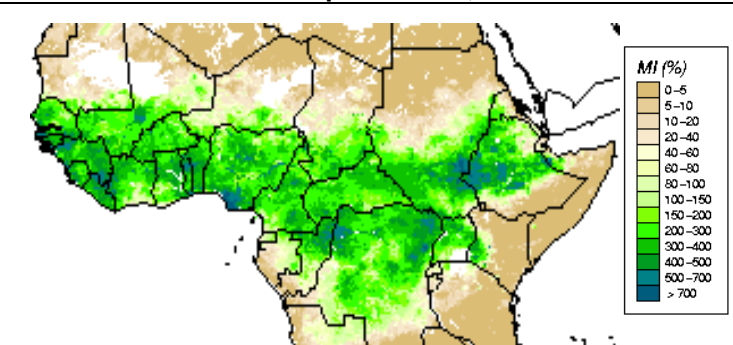


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm) Valid: September 14 – September 20, 2010

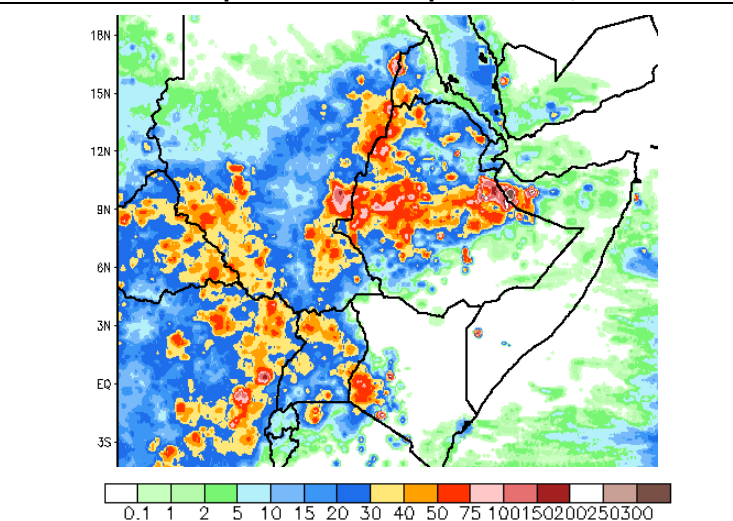


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards assessment map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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